

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 6 and 7, and the suggestion offered by the Examiner to overcome the objection to Claim 2. Accordingly, Claim 2 was written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 was amended to depend from Claim 6 to overcome the objection stated on Page 2 of the present Office Action. Since Claim 6 was allowed, Claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

The present invention comprises a method of erasing information from the magnetic disks in disk drives using a high strength magnetic field while the disks are still inside the disk drive assembly. The drive enclosure provides a reduced thickness in a localized region over the disks. This allows a narrower working magnetic gap of the drive level disk erase apparatus. The localized region of the drive is a formed indentation on the top cover, elimination of flange, and reduced floor thickness of the base.

In contrast, the cited prior art reference, *Tamura*, discloses a disk eraser that is designed to erase the disks of completely conventional disk drive enclosures. There is not one word in *Tamura* that addresses the configuration of drive enclosures, much less to making drive enclosures more geometrically conducive to erasing disks. The Examiner cites numerous passages that generally discuss the components of the *Tamura* disk drive. However, none of these passages actually address the design, shape, or dimensions of the enclosure itself. Moreover, *Tamura* is merely cumulative prior art to Applicant's Admitted Prior Art described in the Background section of the present application. Page 2, paragraph 6; page 3, paragraph 9 – page 4, paragraph 13. Again, none of this prior art addresses the design of the enclosure.

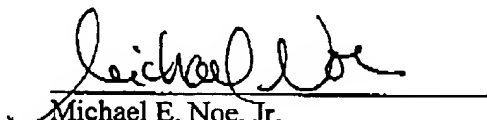
Furthermore, only Figure 3 of *Tamura* even shows a side profile of the enclosure, which is a completely conventional rectangular box enclosure. Figure 6 also shows a huge magnetic gap

(much larger than the overall thickness of the enclosure). The cover 14 appears to be completely flat with no reduction in axial thickness. Moreover, none of the *Tamura* passages quoted by the Examiner reference the shape or design of the enclosure.

Accordingly, Applicant maintains that the original claims are in condition for allowance. Each claim contains language that readily distinguishes the prior art. For example, independent Claim 1 configures the disk region to have an axial thickness that is less than the axial thickness of the enclosure. Again, *Tamura* does not mention one word about the geometry of its enclosure (suggesting a completely conventional design). Similarly, each of the dependent Claims 3 – 5 further distinguish the prior art. For example, Claim 3 states that the disk region is formed in portions of both the base and the cover. In contrast, *Tamura's* cover is completely flat.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or any other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587**.

Respectfully submitted,


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